

## **Claims**

1. A book pressing machine, including a pressing station for pressing a book cover onto a book block, which pressing station includes a substantially horizontally arranged pressing table and a pressing plate movable perpendicularly to the pressing table for all-over pressing of the book with the book lying flat; means for aligning the book in the pressing station; and an endless conveyor belt which conveys the book in a transport direction on a transport plane into and out of a pressing position under the pressing plate, said belt having an upper portion which rests on the pressing table as a support for the book and is thereafter deflected away from the transport direction; wherein the improvement comprises that: the conveyor belt operates in a transport direction that cyclically conveys the book into and out of the pressing position with the spine leading; the front of the pressing table forms a sharp edge for deflecting the conveyor belt away from the transport direction; a pressing rail separate from the pressing plate forms a front end-piece for the pressing plate and is operatively associated with the pressing plate to provide vertical movement for holding down the book cover as the pressing plate is opened and reciprocating horizontal movement for accelerating the book as the book is conveyed out of the pressing position.
2. Book pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein the pressing rail is pivotally mounted in front of the pressing plate to provide said reciprocating horizontal movement.

3. Book pressing machine according to claim 2, wherein the pivoted pressing rail is configured as a segment of a roller having a radius corresponding to the pivot radius when accelerating.
- 5 4. Book pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein the means for aligning are formed by two spine stops which are movable into and out of said transport plane from below and above and are adjustable to the shape of the spine, and the book is conveyed against said spine stops by distinct increment of movement of the conveyor belt.
- 10 5. Book pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein the conveyor belt has a rearward conveyor portion offering the cyclically-fed book at least one intermediate position and a pressing wheel is situated at each said intermediate position for urging the book against the conveyor belt.
- 15 6. Book pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein a pair of fold-pressing rails are arranged in front of the pressing table and the pressing rail and movable perpendicularly to the pressing table.
- 20 7. Book pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein the pressing plate is exchangeable with an imprinting plate having embossed elements for embossing one side of the book.
- 25 8. Book pressing machine according to claim 1, wherein the pressing plate carries an imprinting plate that faces the pressing table and has embossed elements for embossing one side of the book.
- 30 9. Book pressing machine according to claim 2, wherein the means for aligning are formed by two spine stops which are movable into and

out of said transport plane from below and above and are adjustable to the shape of the spine, and the book is conveyed against said spine stops by an additional movement of the conveyor belt.

- 5 10. Book pressing machine according to claim 2, wherein the conveyor belt has a rearward conveyor portion offering the cyclically-fed book at least one intermediate position and a pressing wheel is situated at each said intermediate position for urging the book against the conveyor belt.
- 10 11. Book pressing machine according to claim 2, wherein a pair of fold-pressing rails are arranged in front of the pressing table and the pressing rail and movable perpendicularly to the pressing table.
- 15 12. Book pressing machine according to claim 3, wherein the means for aligning are formed by two spine stops which are movable into and out of said transport plane from below and above and are adjustable to the shape of the spine, and the book is conveyed against said spine stops by distinct increment of movement of the conveyor belt.
- 20 13. Book pressing machine according to claim 4, wherein a pair of fold-pressing rails are arranged in front of the pressing table and the pressing rail and movable perpendicularly to the pressing table.
- 25 14. Book pressing machine according to claim 13, wherein a pair of fold-pressing rails are arranged in front of the pressing table and the pressing rail and movable perpendicularly to the pressing table.